

the 1976 legislation, the bank is required to operate on a cost recovery basis, and at the same time, it is asked to take more risks. In recent years, that is, since the 1976 legislation was passed, the Federal Business Development Bank has acted on Parliament's request that it take more risks, and that is why, unfortunately or fortunately, the bank is now suffering considerable losses, which I hope will at least benefit Canada's small businesses.

* * *

[English]

MINES AND MINING

UNEMPLOYMENT IN TRAIL AND KIMBERLEY, B.C.

Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta): Madam Speaker, my question was intended for the Minister of State for Mines but in her absence I will direct my question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. We now have an inventory of over 16,000 jobs lost in the Canadian mining sector on either a temporary or permanent basis.

The announced summer shutdown of the Cominco mines and the smelter at Trail will put more than 7,000 workers on the unemployment roles in Trail and Kimberley, British Columbia, for the first time in history. This calamitous state of affairs cannot just be blamed on international conditions. Industry experts agree that the collapse of our minerals industry is largely aggravated by a loss of confidence in the Canadian economy due to the anti-business thrust of the National Energy Program and the November 12 budget. What do the minister and his sidekick, the Minister of Finance, propose to do about this tragic situation?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, as the hon. member knows, the production from those mines and the Canadian mining sector is distributed worldwide. The hon. member does not seem to be aware that in the last year the world has been facing a worldwide recession and that prices of raw mineral resources have doubled in all sectors around the world. Canada is not immune to that situation. We are facing the same situation as most other countries which have large mineral activities at the present time.

The only real hope is for a turn-around in the world economy, particularly in the western economies. Once this happens there will be a rise in demand. At the present time the demand for raw resources is considerably down around the world.

Mr. Siddon: Madam Speaker, that is just an outright cop-out. The serious crisis of confidence in this country in our economy reflects the need for a national vote of confidence in this incompetent Liberal government.

Oral Questions

An hon. Member: Who wrote that?

Mr. Lalonde: Madam Speaker, I suspect that my hon. friend did not have much to do in the last three weeks to come up with a second question like that.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

* * *

EMPLOYMENT

ALLOCATION OF JOB-CREATION FUNDS TO VANCOUVER RIDINGS

Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre): Madam Speaker, my question was to be addressed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration who has not seen fit to stay in the House for question period on the first day that the House has resumed.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: That is your fault. You started it.

Miss Carney: I will ask my question of the acting minister. The minister should be aware that British Columbia has been hit by a record number of lay-offs. Unemployment is plaguing all sectors of the economy. Last December the minister designated my riding of Vancouver centre as a "lay-off" constituency and allocated extra funds to it under the Canada Community Development Program. A few weeks later this funding was abruptly withdrawn, with no explanation, and the same thing has happened to other Vancouver area ridings.

Given this record unemployment in British Columbia, why did the minister and his department withdraw these job-creation funds from the Vancouver ridings, and is the money which was allocated to Vancouver being used to help fund the additional \$20 million for the Summer Canada program?

QUALIFYING FACTORS APPLICABLE TO PROVISION OF FUNDS

Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre): Madam Speaker, since there is no one on the government side of the House who is prepared to speak on an issue of record unemployment in Vancouver and in the province of British Columbia, I will direct my supplementary question to any minister who cares to answer it. Since record unemployment is apparently not a qualifying factor for job-creating funds, what is it?

Mr. Nielsen: There is no answer.

Mr. Crosbie: Wake up!

● (1500)

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Minister of Labour): Madam Speaker, I apologize to the hon. member. I will definitely take notice of her question and reply to her tomorrow.